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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/738,420	12/17/2003	Hideto Nakamura	FP03-139US	8338
1218	7590	08/24/2005	EXAMINER	
CASELLA & HESPOS 274 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10016			HAMMOND, BRIGGITTE R	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2833	
DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

H.A

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/738,420

Applicant(s)

NAKAMURA, HIDETO

Examiner

Brigitte R. Hammond

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 5/26/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) 10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto in view of Tsuji 5,910,028. Matsumoto discloses a connector comprising a housing (A) having a front end (right side of A) connectable with a mating housing (B), a rear end (left side of A) and at least one cavity (1) between the ends, the rear end being formed to define a pushable portion 5, a slider (C) with an escape groove (12a) and a biasing member 15 provided between the slider (C) and the housing (A). Matsumoto does not disclose the escape groove being rearwardly open. However, Tsuji discloses a connector comprising a housing, connectable with a mating housing and a slider 30 having an escape groove being rearwardly open (see fig. 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Matsumoto by providing a rearwardly open escape groove to facilitate smooth insertion as taught by Tsuji.

Regarding claim 3, the slider (C) is movable forward and backward substantially along connecting and separating directions of the housing and the mating housing.

Regarding claim 4, the slider (C) has a substantially tubular shape for at least partly surrounding the housing (A).

Regarding claim 5, the slider (C) has a substantially rectangular tubular shape and is configured to project back from a receptacle (7) of the mating housing (B) when the two housings are connected properly.

Regarding claim 6, wherein the slider (C) comprises at least one pullable portion (11a) pullable at the time of separating the housing from the mating housing.

Regarding claim 7, two pullable portions (11a) are provided substantially symmetrically on sides of the slider near where the escape groove is formed.

Regarding claim 8, Matsumoto discloses a connector comprising a housing (A) having opposite front and rear ends, the front ends being connectable with one another, at least one pushable portion 5 formed on the rear of the housing (left side of housing A), a slider (C) movable with respect to the housing and at least partially surrounding the housing, the slider being formed with at least one escape groove (12a) for receiving the pushable portion (5) of the housing (A), and a biasing member (15) provided between the slider (C) and the housing (A) and being compressible to accumulate a biasing force for separating the housing (A) from the mating housing (B) as the slider (C) is moved. Matsumoto does not disclose the escape groove being rearwardly open. However, Tsuji discloses a connector comprising a housing, connectable with a mating housing and a slider 30 having an escape groove being rearwardly open (see fig. 7). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to modify the connector of Matsumoto by providing a rearwardly open escape groove to facilitate smooth insertion as taught by Tsuji.

Regarding claim 9, the mating housing (B) includes a receptacle (6,8) for receiving at least portions of the housing (A) and the slider (C).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 10 is allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding claim 2, the housing having two pullable portions symmetrically disposed on the housing, in combination with the other limitations of the base claim.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

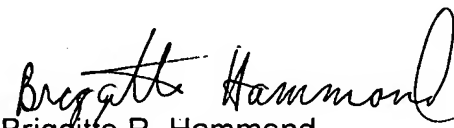
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the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brigitte R. Hammond whose telephone number is 571-272-2006. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Thurs. and Alternate Fridays from 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Brigitte R. Hammond  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2833

August 20, 2005